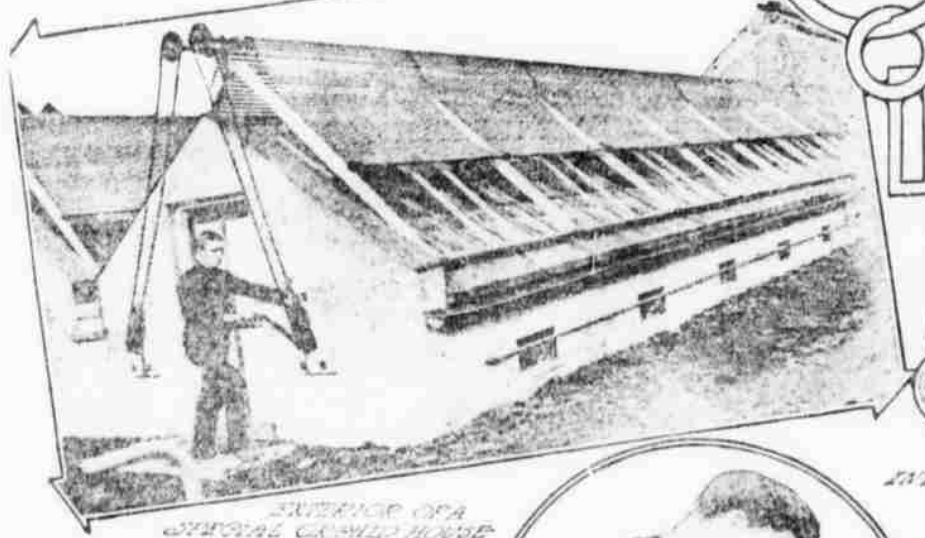


Raising the Rarest of Flowers—Orchids

ORCHIDS are not only the rarest of flowers, but they are among the most beautiful of all the products of nature. To find and bring back to civilization the choicest of these petaloid trophies, orchid hunters are all the while traveling in tropical lands, braving dangers and hardships to secure the choicest and most valuable specimens. There is no question, then, that the orchid family is one of the most interesting and mysterious kinds in the whole of nature. It is one of the most ancient and most valuable of all the products of nature. To find and bring back to civilization the choicest of these petaloid trophies, orchid hunters are all the while traveling in tropical lands, braving dangers and hardships to secure the choicest and most valuable specimens. There is no question, then, that the orchid family is one of the most interesting and mysterious kinds in the whole of nature.

No wonder, then, that orchids have become more popular than ever, and as the popular play and the orchid hunter's life have become more popular, the orchid has become more popular. No wonder, then, that orchids have become more popular than ever, and as the popular play and the orchid hunter's life have become more popular, the orchid has become more popular.



secret of the fascination of these wonderful flowers is not by any means explained by the mere fact that they are so expensive, which has often been advanced in explanation of why so many people are eager for them.

No more than half a century ago the whole orchid family was virtually undiscovered. Only a few varieties were known, and they were by no means in general cultivation. Now there is a mad quest in all quarters of the globe for these fashionable flowers. The uttermost parts of the earth are being ransacked for new varieties, and the price of the orchid has risen to such a point that collectors will pay for rare "hots" and expensive greenhouses have been installed to permit the cultivation of the more delicate members of the orchid family under the same conditions as to light and temperature which obtain in its ancestral home in the tropics.

The orchids in their native haunts are found growing in all sorts of strange ways, and naturally when they are transplanted they are hard plants to grow. Moreover, there are no rules for the cultivation of orchids. In other branches of the floral kingdom all the members of a given floral family may be expected to yield to the same general method of cultivation, varied only in minor detail to permit adaptation to the needs of each member of the family. Not so with the orchids, however. Every plant is seemingly a law unto itself, and likely to require methods of cultivation distinct in themselves, and perhaps the exact opposite of those which obtain in the case of other members of this fascinating family.

The rarest of the orchids, and, of course, the ones most sought and the ones which command the highest prices, do not grow after the fashion of the general community of self-respecting plants which bury their roots in the soil. Instead these orchids are, in effect, parasites, fastening themselves to tree trunks or tree limbs. It is these species which have their native home deep in the jungles of the tropics and the hotter and damper the atmosphere of these unhealthy tropical forests—for instance, those of Brazil—the more the orchids seem to thrive. Now when the descendants of such tropical captives are to be



FEDERAL GORGEON TREATING ORCHIDS



THE ARISTOCRATS OF FLORICULTURE

nurtured and cultivated in the civilized environment of the temperate zone, it goes without saying that it is no easy task to duplicate the conditions which produced the species. To do so at all necessitates the construction of the special greenhouses above mentioned, with varied equipment, including a steam heating plant big enough to heat buildings many times the size of these greenhouses.

The lure of rich reward attracts many daring and resourceful men to the orchid business, although as may be surmised, the rich prizes—gold—come to the men who discover, or at least the men who bring back to civilization heretofore unknown varieties of this numerous family. The leading firms engaged in the orchid trade retain at large salaries men of wide experience whose sole occupation is to trail the orchid in the almost inaccessible haunts where there is ever the magnet of possible unheard-of varieties to beckon one forward.

Sometimes an orchid hunter will search for a year or more, facing the almost intolerable conditions of an unexplored land in order to capture in the end some heretofore unknown variety. During his quest, be it long or short, he must brave foul disease at almost every step; must be ever alert against the hostility of the tribes which inhabit the region he in-

vades, and must risk all sorts of personal mishaps in grasping his prize, even after the quest has been successful, since most of the rare orchids of the tropics flourish only at the tops of the tallest trees. The hunter must either climb the trees, or more likely he will cut them down, but he dare not trust any hands save his own to undertake the task of gathering these fragile flowers.

An energetic orchid hunter will forward great numbers of plants, some rare and others not so rare, to the orchid consuming centers of Europe and America every year, but it is no easy matter to get the orchids to the coast after they have been found and wired into boxes by skillful packers, and on shipboard, even though the temperature of special cabins be regulated to sustain these floral natives of the tropics, there are other perils to be passed, and many plants perish during the ocean voyage. Indeed, it is claimed that on every large consignment of orchids from Brazil or Madagascar or other orchid producing paradise there is a loss amounting to thousands of dollars through the demise of plants that cannot withstand the rigors of an ocean voyage and in consequence pass from their dormant condition into a sleep from which they cannot be awakened.

The roots which come safely to market are usually put up at auction, and since there are no flowers on the plants, and no means of positively identifying them—not even the orchid hunter having seen them in bloom—it is not infrequently happens that what are sold for orchids of a common variety, and consequently bring low price, turn out to be rarities of great value. In this way one unidentified orchid plant that brought half a dollar at an auction sale in London was, when it bloomed, after a lapse of two years, discovered to be such a novelty that the very firm that had disposed of it at auction bought it back for \$2,500. This price is by no means a record-breaker for a rare orchid, as notable specimens have been sold for sums as high as \$5,750. Nor is it necessary that an orchid shall be what the layman would regard as distinctly different from all others in order to command a fancy price. If it merely has markings distinct from those on the orchids of the same class which have come to light previously, it will be eagerly sought by collectors who take account of all such minor differences



ORCHIDS: THE RAREST AND MOST VALUABLE OF FLOWERS

Just as do the collectors of coins or postage stamps.

The raising of orchids from seed is a very slow operation, and one requiring an infinite amount of patience. Orchid growers who are in the business either for profit or pleasure, prefer, as a rule, to simply buy the bulbs—brown and withered and unpromising—and by watchful care nurture the latent spark of life until in time the plant blooms. One ticklish task in connection with the raising of orchids is the keeping up of the successive periods of rest and activity natural to each species of this floral family. As an orchid plant is passing into what is known as the dormant state it requires a gradually slackening supply of water, whereas when it is revived from this and returned to active growth there must be a continual increase in the amount of moisture supplied to the plant arising from its dormancy.

Orchids newly arrived from foreign parts must have an exceptional amount of attention after their long sea voyage. First, all the old leaves are removed, and then the plants are allowed to repose for a time in a cool building where they have shade. After two or three days of preparation the new arrivals are put in pots and "nursed" until they give evidence of active growth. After this it is largely a question of regulating temperature and moisture although such are the peculiarities of these erratic flowers that every now and then an experienced grower will lose a number of plants for no apparent reason.

These flowers, some of which are said to have the ability to kill with their fragrance, are in reality distant cousins of our familiar blooms, the snow drop and the lady's slipper. There are, all told, more than 5,000 varieties of orchids, but the ones which have been most prized are the strangely beautiful forms which have come from blustering deserts, fever swamps, the tops of mountains or other localities where it seems as though Dame Nature had done her best to hide them away from prying human eyes. To persons who have not learned to love them there is often a suggestion almost of the uncanny about a fanciful orchid, and such persons will not be surprised to hear that one of the choicest of orchids was first found clinging to a tombstone in New Guinea.

Orchid growers would, most of them, be in no end of difficulty in classifying and identifying their specimens, were it not for the Orchid Handbook, which is issued every year just as is the handbook of horses, which lists all of the domestic varieties of orchids with information as to their respective lines of descent from the original wild kinds. There have been many famous orchid collectors. Mrs. Roosevelt was very fond of the flower and it was due to her efforts that a respectable-sized collection of orchids has been formed at the White House conservatories. Perhaps the most enthusiastic of all orchid collectors, however, has been Joseph Chamberlain, and the name of the English statesman will live forever in the domain of the orchid as a devotee who devoted his leisure and thousands of dollars of his wealth to the indulgence of his hobby for the gentlest and frailest of flowers.

Ought to Have It

A councillor of the Paris Prefecture, who has not reached the age at which he is entitled to a pension, has applied for his pension on the ground that attendance at state banquets has ruined his digestion and made him so much of an invalid that he is no longer able to perform the duties of his office.

Origin of the Piano.

The pianoforte was directly evolved from the clavichord and the harpsichord. In 1711 Scipione Maffei gave a detailed account of the first four instruments, which were constructed by Bartholomew Christofori. It was named by him the pianoforte and was first exhibited in 1709. Marini, in France, exhibited harpsichords, with hammer action, in 1716, and Schreder in Germany, claimed to have invented the pianoforte between 1717 and 1720.

Marini was at first generally credited with the invention. Pianos of that period were shaped much like the modern grand variety. The first square piano was constructed by Frederick an organ manufacturer of Saxony, in 1758. The first genuine upright piano was invented in England and the United States by John Isaac Hawkins an Englishman, in 1820.

Loss of Appetite

Which is so common in the spring or upon the return of warm weather, is loss of vitality, vigor or tone, and is often a forerunner of prostrating disease.

It is serious and especially so to people that must keep up and doing or get behindhand.

The best medicine to take for it is the great constitutional remedy

Hood's Sarsaparilla

Which purifies and enriches the blood and builds up the whole system.

Get it today in usual liquid form or chocolate tablets called Sarsatabs.

RHEUMATISM

STOMACH (Where Rheumatism is most common) KIDNEY (Last, Nashville, Tenn., Nashville, Tenn.)

WISE, ALL RIGHT.



Mr. Wise—Where's the man that struck my wife—where is he?
Hystander—What'll you do if you find him?
Mr. Wise—Introduce him to my mother-in-law.

A Spicy Subject.

John Lane, the well-known publisher, said at a literary dinner in New York:

"As an editor I find nobody so persistent as the amateur contributor. If the amateur were half as ingenious in writing his material as in trying to land it, he would become a Dickens in no time."

"An amateur said the other day to an editor I know:

"Allow me to submit this bear story."

"My readers don't care for bear stories," said the editor. "They want something spicy."

"But this," said the amateur, "is a story about a cinnamon bear."

Baby Testes on the Table.

"We are called upon to repair all kinds of damages," a furniture dealer the other day said. "But the most puzzling disfigurement I ever saw was that which appeared on a beautiful mahogany table brought in for refinishing. All around its margin were rows of scratches and small indentations which were hard to explain, as the table was otherwise unharmed."

"What happened to it?" I asked when the owner came in.

"Well," she replied, "the baby insisted on cutting his teeth around the edge of it. Of course, it was rather expensive, but we both think there is nothing too good for the baby."

Crippled by Tuberculosis.

According to a recent report by Dr. Conrad Blesnick of Berlin, there are 75,000 cripples in the German empire out of a population of 69,500,000. Over 30,000 of the cripples are in need of proper treatment. Doctor Blesnick states that in 15 per cent. of the cripples examined, their deformity was due to tuberculosis of the bones and joints, and that there were 10,000 such children in great need of medical treatment. He advocates the establishment of seaside sanatoria for this latter class of cripples.

COFFEE CONGESTION

Causes a Variety of Ails.

A happy old lady in Wisconsin says:

"During the time I was a coffee drinker I was subject to sick headaches, sometimes lasting 2 or 3 days, totally unfitting me for anything."

To this affliction was added, some years ago, a trouble with my heart that was very painful, accompanied by a smothering sensation and faintness.

Dyspepsia, also, came to make life harder to bear. I took all sorts of patent medicines but none of them helped me for any length of time.

"The doctors frequently told me that coffee was not good for me; but without coffee I felt as if I had no breakfast. I finally decided about 3 years ago to abandon the use of coffee entirely, and as I had read a great deal about Postum I concluded to try that for a breakfast beverage."

"I liked the taste of it and was particularly pleased to notice that it did not 'come up' as coffee used to. The bad spells with my heart grew less and less frequent, and finally ceased altogether, and I have not had an attack of sick headache for more than a year. My digestion is good, too, and I am thankful that I am once more a healthy woman. I know my wonderful restoration to health came from quitting coffee and using Postum." Name given by the Postum Co., Battle Creek, Mich.

"There's a reason," and it is this. Coffee has a direct action on the liver with some people, and causes partial congestion of that organ preventing the natural outlet of the secretions. Then may follow biliousness, yellow skin, headaches, constipation and finally a change of the blood corpuscles and nervous prostration.

Read the little book, "The Road to Wellville," in pkgs. "There's a Reason."

Ever read the above letter? A new one appears from time to time. They are genuine, true, and full of human interest.

Use Flattery for Health

What Women Need Is Not so Much Medicine But a Lot of White Lies.

And now comes a very learned man, a psychologist, a physicist and a philosopher, who seems to have investigated the whole subject to his own satisfaction, and finds that the world is cursed with truth, or, rather, with a lack of lies. Human beings, particularly those of the female gender, suffer physical torments, it appears, because they are not buoyed up by sufficient flattery. What women need is not so much quinine and ipecac as a lot of white lies. When you go home to the wife of your bosom you are not to tell her that she looks bad and ought to have a doctor at once. By no means. You must tell her that

she looks younger than she has for years, and that she never was as dear to you, and that you are hardly able to pull through your daily tasks because you are so distracted by thoughts of her.

The remedy at least is cheap. It costs nothing but effort, but, alas! more effort than some men are willing to put forth. It is not because a man is too truthful to tell lies to his wife about her appearance, but because he hasn't the willing mind. It is too common for men to presume that simply because they are married they need not bestow courtesy or sentiment upon their wives. Some men reserve their stories of flattery for other men's wives, which makes particularly interesting reading in the divorce courts.

Now, this learned man is right in his fundamentals. We do not know whether or not a case of appendicitis or of cerebro-spinal meningitis may be cured by flattery, but if more men went home to their wives with cheerful faces, with loving words, with the most tender courtesy and a box of candy or a bunch of violets, a lot of heart trouble would be cured instantly. The principal fact about a woman is that she is a woman. She lives on love. She is made for it and

Hats.

"What is the average woman's idea of spring poetry?"
"Oh, something in a millinery way, I guess."

Never Anything Else.

"Is your toothache bad?"
"Well, it doesn't look particularly good to me."

When the Teacher Blushed.

"What is it," asked the teacher, "that binds us together and makes us better than we are by nature?"
"Gsets, sir," piped a wise little girl of eight.—Red Hen.

When He Flourished.

"Used to be a waiter, you say?"
"Yes; those were his palmy days."